

REMARKS

The present application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) application of parent application Serial No. 10/367,127. In the parent application, claims 3-12, 15-16, 18-25 and 27-30 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

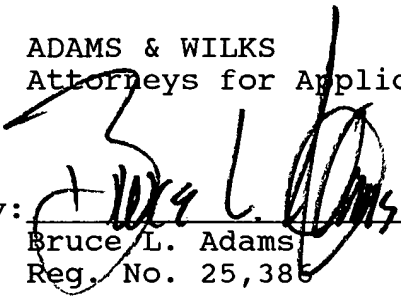
In accordance with this preliminary amendment, new claims 21-36 have been added to cover the subject matter of the allowed claims in the parent application. The subject matter of new claims 21-26, 27-30, 31-32 and 34-36 corresponds exactly to the subject matter of allowed claims 3-8, 18-21, 22-23 and 27-30 in the parent application. Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of new claims 21-36 is fully supported by the specification and drawings of the present CIP application. Claims 1-36 are currently pending in the present CIP application.

The parent application is being abandoned in favor of this CIP application.

Early and favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS FEE AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Debra Buonincontri

Name



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August 17, 2004

Date